

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

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R 061500Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4619

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0516

E.O.11652:N/A

SUBJ :VORSTER SPEAKS ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

TAGS :PFOR,SF

1. IN A SPEECH DELIVERED AT NIGEL SIX MONTHS AGO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER MADE HIS SINCE MUCH-QUOTED STATEMENT ABOUT CHANGES WITHIN SIX MONTHS. REFERRING TO THOSE WHO-SAY AND WRITE THINGS TO HARM SOUTH AFRICA,'VORSTER SAID.'ALL I ASK THEM IS TO GIVE SOUTH AFRICA SIX MONTHS. I DO NOT ASK MORE THAN THAT. IF SOUTH AFRICA IS GIVEN THAT CHANCE,THEY WILL BE SURPRISED AT WHERE THE COUNTRY WILL STAND SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS FROM NOW'(CAPE TOWN 728, 11/26/74).

2. SIX MONTHS LATER, EDITORIAL COMMENT IN ALMOST ALL SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS HAS BEEN FAVORABLE FOR MR.VORSTER,GIVING HIM CREDIT FOR HAVING IMPROVED SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION. ALTHOUGH VORSTER WAS NOT REFERRING TO SOUTH AFRICA'S DOMESTIC SITUATION,SOME COMMENTATORS INTERPRETED HIS REMARKS THEN AND SUBSEQUENTLY AS FORECASTING SIGNIFICANT

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CHANGES IN RACE RELATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY. CRITICISM

AIMED AT HIM NOW IS MAINLY THAT HE HAS NOT MOVED MUCH TO IMPROVE DOMESTIC SCENE.

3. REFERRING TO HIS 'SIX MONTH' SPEECH IN AN ADDRESS AT PORT ELIZABETH MAY 4, VORSTER SAID:'I ASKED THE WORLD TO GIVE SOUTH AFRICA SIX MONTHS. THAT TIME IS NOW UP AND TODAY THE WORLD CAN ONLY ACCEPT SOUTH AFRICA'S INTEGRITY, ITS HONESTY AND ITS JUST RIGHT TO BE PART OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.' HE SAID THAT EVEN IF MOST OF THE BRIDGES BUILT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE REST OF AFRICA WERE DESTROYED,SOME WOULD REMAIN TO TESTIFY TO SOUTH AFRICA'S GOODWILL AND INTEGRITY.

4. AN EARLIER ADDRESS, DELIVERED AT SOMERSET EAST MAY 3, VORSTER SOUNDED ANOTHER THEME.LCCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HE SAID COMMUNIST VICTORY IN VIETNAM AND PRESENCE OF 'COMMUNIST NAVY' ON THE OCEANS HAD EMPHASIZED SOUTH AFRICA'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AD 'PROTECTOR OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT SEA ROUTE.'

5. VORSTER WAS SPEAKING FOR BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CONSUMPTION. IN ESSENCE HE WAS SAYING THAT HIS EFFORTS AT DETENTE ARE WORTHWHILE EVEN IF THEY DO NOT ACHIEVE ALL OF THEIR HOPED-FOR RESULTS. AND HE WAS REPEATING THE LITANY, INCREASINGLY HEARD IN RECENT MONTHS,THAT SOUTH AFRICA STANDS AS A BULWARK OF STABILITY IN A WORLD BESET BY COMMUNISM,AND THAT IN VIEW OF THIS AND BECAUSE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF CAPE SEA ROUTE, THE WEST NEEDS SOUTH AFRICA. IN NEITHER SPEECH DID VORSTER EXPLICITLY ANSWER CRITICISM THAT PROGRESS IN RACE RELATIONS IS TOO SLOW, BUT HE DID SAY THAT IN EVENT OF A 'CLASH WHICH COULD AFFECT US ALL', THE 'VARIOUS SECTIONS' OF SOUTH AFRICA WOULD FORM A UNITED FRONT.

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